

REVISED - 2/6/62

ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE

#117

"TEEN AGE FAN CLUBS"
(UNTITLED)

WRITER: ALVIN BORETZ

DIRECTOR: PAUL BOGART

PRODUCER: ROBERT COSTELLO

EDITOR: BARBARA SCHULTZ

C A S T

BEN CLAYTON

ADA O'DOHERTY

DAVE TAYLOR

WILLIE CARLISLE

ELLEN HARPER

MRS. HARPER

LARRY

HARRIS

CARRIE

JENNIFER

NINA

RITA

STEVE

RONIS

MILLER'S VOICE

UNDER FIVE

MARTHA

KENNY

EXTRAS

PHOTOGRAPHER

DISC JOCKEY

ENGINEER

TEEN-AGERS

"TEEN AGE FAN CLUBS"FADE UP

(CU PORTABLE PHONOGRAPHS SPINNING
A RECORD. WILLIE'S VOICE IS SING-
ING A BALLAD. PULL BACK ENOUGH
TO SHOW ELLEN AND SOME GIRL FRIENDS
LYING ON THE FLOOR AND BED NEXT TO
THE PLAYER .. LOST IN DREAMLAND)

COCHRAN:

Good evening everyone..this is
Ron Cochran. Tonight .. the
story of a battle for fifty
million dollars. The amount
of money spent by American
teenagers on single phonograph
records. In the mad scramble
for this fortune there are still
billions more in the "extras"
bought each year by our youth.
The competition for this seem-
ingly inexhaustible supply of
cash is both fierce and un-
relenting. A jungle warfare
that challenges the imagination
..ranging from clever schemes to
outright bribery. One of its

COCHRAN: (Cont'd)

most cynical techniques is the
use it makes of a unique American
institution. The teen age fan
club. Used here for only one
reason. To exploit ... its un-
suspecting victims.

DISSOLVE TO:

(EXT. TEENAGE GIRLS OUTSIDE A STAGE
DOOR..SURROUNDING A SINGING IDOL
FOR AUTOGRAPHS)

COCHRAN: (VO)

In just a few moments ..

SUPER 35mm INSTITUTIONAL

FILM

..on the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE
THEATRE.

FADE IN:

(A TV STUDIO. WILLIE
IS SINGING. HE IS
STIFF AND AWKWARD IN
HIS STYLE BUT HE IS
HEART AND SOUL IN
WHAT HE IS DOING ..
REALLY FEELING IT)

COCHRAN: (VO)

To reach the golden jackpot
of a million sale record..
two elements are needed.

The first is simple.

A singer.

Preferably..a teenager him-
self. With built in appeal
to those of his own genera-
tion. His style can be
taught. Polished with machine
like precision.

DISSOLVE TO:

(FILM. STOCK. A
RECORD HOP..WITH
TEENAGERS DANCING)

The second element is not
so simple.

An audience.

The mass of individuals..
whom the singer must unite
in a common devotion.

If he is successful in becoming
a teen age idol.....he may earn
as much as a million dollars.

SUPER CRAWL

ACT ONEDISSOLVE TO:

(BEN'S APARTMENT. WILLIE IS SING-
ING. HE IS SEVENTEEN...AND APPEAL-
ING. BEN CLAYTON IS 35..VIGOROUS
AND BRIGHT. ADA O'DOHERTY IS IN
HER LATE TWENTIES. SHE IS NO GLAMOUR
GIRL BUT SHE HAS AN ATTRACTIVENESS
WHICH COMES FROM HER WARMTH AND KNOW-
HOW. ALSO PRESENT IS DAVE..THE AC-
COMPANIST. BEN IS LISTENING EAGERLY
WHILE ADA LISTENS IMPASSIVELY. DAVE'S
EXPRESSION DOESN'T SEEM TO INDICATE
THAT HE IS TOO HAPPY)

(WILLIE SINGS SEVERAL BARS..THEN
BEN TURNS TO DAVE)

BEN:

What do you think?

DAVE:

He can't sing.

BEN:

Give me an honest answer.

DAVE:

I just did. He's got no talent
..for singing anyway.

(BEN MOVES OVER TO ADA)

BEN:

You like him?

ADA:

I'm trying hard.

(SHE LISTENS FOR A FEW MORE EARS
THEN TURNS TO BEN)

He needs a certain kind of ar-
rangement. To drown him out.

(BEN TURNS AWAY..IRRITATED...IM-
PATIENT AND WILLIE CONTINUES TO
SING UNDER NARRATION)

COCHRAN: (VO)

(CAMERA PANS THE
PEOPLE)

These .. are the idol
makers.

Or so they hope.

Ready to begin the long,
laborious act of creation.
Ben Clayton..age...thirty-
five.

Occupation..talent manager.
Ada O'Doherty...music ar-
ranger.

Age..difficult to assess.

Dave Taylor...voice coach.

A man long used to the impos-
sibilities of show business.

Such as the coming attempt to
make a teen age singing idol

of Willie Carlisle who..until

a short time ago...was a talented
mechanic in a South Philadelphia
garage.

(WILLIE SINGS A FEW MORE BARS..AND
ENDS THE SONG)

(HE LOOKS AT THEM EXPECTANTLY)

WILLIE:

How was that, Mr. Clayton?

BEN:

Fine, Willie, fine. We're go-
ing to be all right together.

(ADA AND DAVE ARE IMPASSIVE)

WILLIE:

(TO ADA)

Didn't you like it?

ADA:

I didn't like the arrangement.

DAVE:

Nothing personal, son. But this
is a hard business. A million
kids come to New York from all
over the country trying to break
into..

BEN:

(INTERRUPTING)

Sure, Dave..we know. Willie, why
don't you go in and rest..play the
radio a little. We have to talk
some business.

WILLIE:

I told you I wanted to sing my own

WILLIE: (Cont'd)

songs, man. I don't dig that number. I don't feel it. My heart wasn't in it.

(BEN HAS THE BEDROOM DOOR OPEN)

BEN:

Don't worry, we're not worried about your voice. You can sing well enough.

(HE GUIDES WILLIE INTO THE NEXT ROOM AND COMES OUT..CLOSING THE DOOR)

WILLIE:

The beat's all wrong. I have to go with my own.

BEN:

Turn on the radio, Willie.

(HE CLOSES THE DOOR)

ADA:

He's a sweet kid. What are you doing?

BEN:

Now you've got it. That's what I wanted to hear. (TO DAVE) Never mind he can't sing. You'll teach him. Besides...we'll make a voice for him in the studio. (TO ADA) Sweet kid...that's the whole thing

BEN: (Cont'd)

about him. His face. You look at him..you like him. How do you think I found him?

ADA:

I was wondering.

BEN:

He's a natural. He comes from South Philadelphia. Same as Fabian, Frankie Avalon, Chubby Checker..Bobby Rydell. They breed them there.

DAVE:

You think it's catching?

ADA:

Sure. Marian Anderson comes from there too.

BEN:

That can't hurt either. Look, I know how it sounds but there's something about that place. Maybe it's in the air..I don't know. But the kids there dig the rock and that's all I'm interested in.

DAVE:

I don't know where you saw him, Ben.....but he's not even good for a Saturday night party.

BEN:

Somebody told me Fabian was discovered on a porch. Well, I pulled into a filling station and there was - Willie. Singing with some kids from the neighborhood and they weren't bad. They've been trying to crack the stations around Philly for singing jobs.

ADA:

Ben, you handle a few good acts but you must be kidding with this one.

DAVE:

I have to go home.

BEN:

Wait a minute. I'm not saying this kid's a talent. But he's got something other kids will buy. He's one of them.

DAVE:

He can't sing.

BEN:

He doesn't have to. We'll give him the right songs...We'll create an image. We'll merchandise him.